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ARC-170 STARFIGHTER

35

Aggressive Reconnaissance craft

Coruscant

501st Legion

DeAGOSTINI

LUCAS BOOKS

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Packaged by Continuo Creative
39-41 North Road,
London N7 9DP

ISBN: 978-1-4439-0189-5

N35 10 01 13

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Printed in the EU

STAR WARS

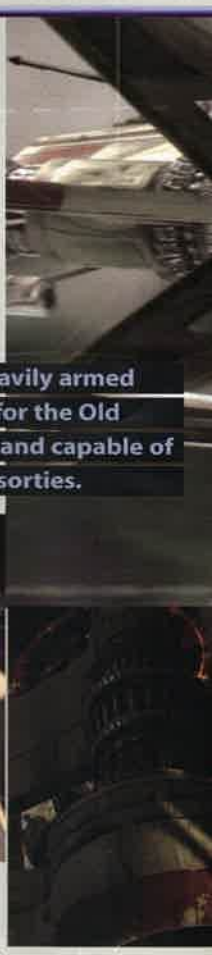
"WE'RE ON YOUR TAIL, GENERAL KENOBI. SET S-FOILS IN ATTACK POSITION."

ODD BALL

Nineteen years before the Battle of Yavin, the Republic's Open Circle Armada, commanded by Jedi Generals Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, was recalled to Coruscant from duties elsewhere in the galaxy. Supreme Chancellor Palpatine, ruler of the Republic, had been kidnapped. Key to Kenobi and Skywalker's plan to recover the Chancellor were the ARC-170 starfighters of the elite Clone Flight Squad Seven.

PACKING A PUNCH

THE ARC-170 STARFIGHTER



The Aggressive ReConnaissance-170 starfighter was a heavily armed and armoured multi-role starfighter/bomber developed for the Old Republic during the Clone Wars. Possessing a hyperdrive and capable of atmospheric flight, it was useful for long- or short-range sorties.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Clone Wars, a partnership that had lasted for 125 years came to an end when the Incom and Subpro Corporations dissolved their long-standing working agreement (allegedly amicably), over the perceived failure of the Z-95AF4 Headhunter starfighter. Incom bought up the rights to the Headhunter range, and a number of other deals were done, including completion on another starfighter project under the Incom/Subpro banner. The deal kept Subpro Corp.'s name on the starfighter, but everything else was Incom. Launched toward the end of the Clone Wars, the starfighter was the incredible Aggressive ReConnaissance-170 starfighter.

From the outset, the ARC-170 was designed as a multi-role starfighter/bomber. This was evident from the sheer size of the craft. At 14.5 metres long, with a wingspan of more than 22 metres, the ARC-170 was twice the size of the V-wing starfighter with which it was often paired. While pure starfighters like the V-wing were faster and more nimble, the ARC-170 was heavily armed and even more heavily armoured. It also

possessed impressive deflector shield systems and, crucially, its own Class 1.5 hyperdrive. This gave the ARC-170 a degree of independence that was lacking in pure starfighters of the time. ARC-170s had an S-foil wing configuration that allowed the vessels to bleed off heat from the engines and the weapons systems quickly and easily. The S-foils also provided the stability needed for the fighter to operate effectively in a planet's atmosphere, giving the starfighter additional mission flexibility against atmospheric or ground-based targets.

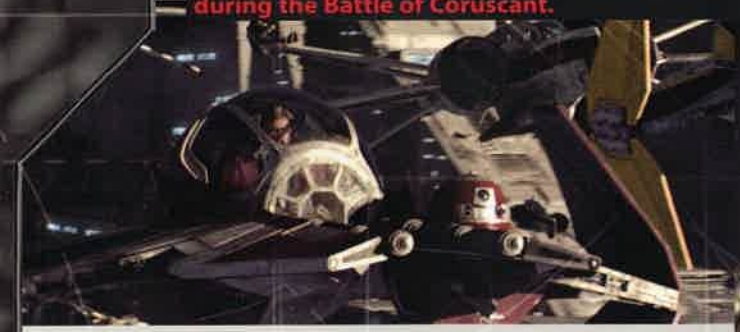
Hard Target

A complex sensor/scanner/jammer package, a full astromech droid socket, and the three-man crew made the ARC-170 an effective reconnaissance craft. Though relatively slow for a starfighter, the tough, shielded craft could take a lot of punishment. It could also return the attention, thanks to an impressive weapon count. A proton torpedo launcher was fed from a magazine of six missiles. The two powerful, forward-facing wingtip medium laser cannons were matched by two rear-facing laser cannon – a nasty surprise for attacking starfighters. The forward weapons were fired by the co-pilot, while a dedicated gunner operated the cannon at the rear, leaving the pilot to concentrate on flying.

SELFLESS SACRIFICE

SQUAD SEVEN IN ACTION

Of the entire Open Circle Armada, Clone Flight Squad Seven was the elite. One of the squad's most outstanding actions in the Clone Wars was fought during the Battle of Coruscant.



Toward the end of the Clone Wars, Separatist forces led by General Grievous unexpectedly launched what appeared to be a last-ditch, desperate assault on Coruscant. In fact, the Separatists were acting on the orders of Sith Lord Darth Sidious, who had given them details of the secret hyperspace route that would allow them to make their surprise attack. The attack on the planet was a distraction to allow Grievous to kidnap Supreme Chancellor Palpatine, leader of the Republic. While the battle raged, and Grievous successfully captured Palpatine, the Open Circle Armada scrambled ships from the Outer Rim sieges. This included the Fifth Fleet, the vanguard of which arrived under the command of Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker.

The Battle of Coruscant was just part of Darth Sidious's plan to bring Anakin Skywalker to the dark side of the Force.

Sacrifice

Kenobi and Skywalker launched their Jedi fighters, backed by Squad Seven. Flying ARC-170s and a handful of Alpha-3 *Nimbus*-class V-wing starfighters, Squad Seven had the unenviable task of covering the two Jedi and allowing them to reach and board Grievous' flagship, the *Invisible Hand*. The Separatist command ship was protected by many hundreds of Vulture droid starfighters and also deadly tri-fighters. Squad Seven, led by Clone Commander Davijaan – known as 'Odd Ball' – did what they could to draw these away from the Jedi by making themselves more obvious and, at times, far easier targets. As a result, the entirely successful action of Squad Seven resulted in their taking significant casualties, particularly under the guns of the agile tri-fighters. Anakin Skywalker was about to turn and help his comrades when Obi-Wan Kenobi ordered him back – Clone Flight Squad Seven were doing their job so the Jedi could do theirs.

CLONE TROOPER PILOTS

SQUAD SEVEN

One of the qualifiers for the warrior who provided the genetic basis for the clone troopers grown on Kamino for the Republic, was that he should be be an excellent pilot. A considerable number of clone troopers received flight training, but having a natural pilot like Jango Fett as a template was an advantage.

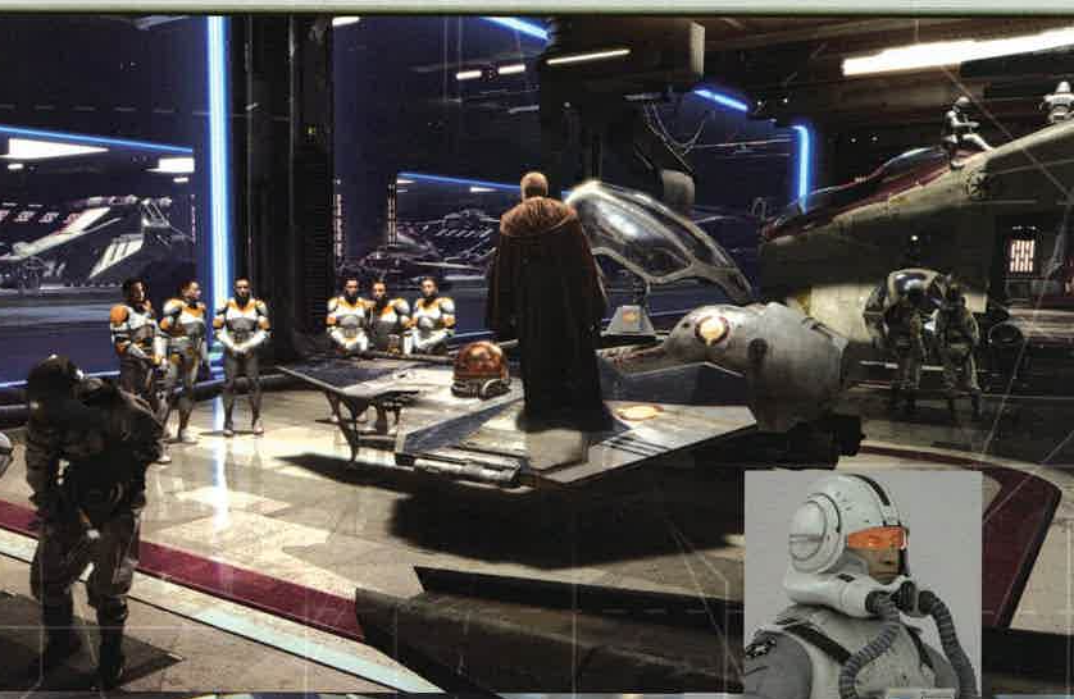
The training of the Republic's clone army was very modular and impersonal. All troopers received the same basic education. They all received the same basic weapons and unarmed combat training. They all underwent the same drills, marching in row after row of identical warriors. After a certain point, some specialisation was introduced, but not on the basis of individual preference or performance. Certain clone groups were assigned to flight training simply on the basis of their batch number.

Fly-Boys

Basic flight training and tactics were taught to all of these clone pilots before further specialisation was introduced, and the clone batches were further subdivided as some went on to pilot vehicles, transports, capital ships, or starfighters. Even at this point, generic training was the order of the day, as pilots were trained to fly or drive all of the relevant craft in the class to which they were assigned. As a result, clone starfighter pilots came out of training competent in flying solo in the fast and agile Alpha-3 *Nimbus*-class V-wings, or in teams of three in the slower, tougher Aggressive ReConnaissance-170 starfighters.

Equipment

At the beginning of the Clone Wars, the majority of clone pilots wore only slightly modified versions of the basic clone trooper armour, their designation as pilots indicated by the yellow markings. Their helmets were the most altered part of their equipment, featuring systems that helped pilot their designated craft. This was to change quickly, and basic uniforms became lighter, more flexible and more comfortable, with helmets radically changing design as newer craft were introduced.



PROFILE

Clone Trooper Pilots

Height

1.83 metres

Homeworld

Kamino

Weapon

Blaster

Species

Human (clone)

Clone pilot units and individuals began to modify the markings of their craft and equipment as hard-won experience began to alter their individual personalities.

Flexible

By the Battle of Coruscant, there were two types of clone pilot armour, defined primarily by the helmets – open-faced for craft with life support, such as the ARC-170, closed for those without, such as the V-wing and the majority of ground craft. As clone trooper pilots were occasionally called on to fight outside of their craft, in boarding actions or after forced landings, they typically carried a DC-15 blaster, additional ammunition, a medical kit and even thermal detonators. Most preferred to leave all but their blasters behind for comfort during flight, while units who regularly engaged in boarding actions preferred timebombs to the less predictable thermal detonators. Though some of the equipment clone pilots wore was specific to a particular ship or vehicle, the fact that the pilots were all clones meant that equipment could be swapped between individual pilots as assignments changed or the units took casualties.

Individual Expression

As the Clone Wars continued, and equipment and craft became more specialised, individual squadrons,

Did you know...?

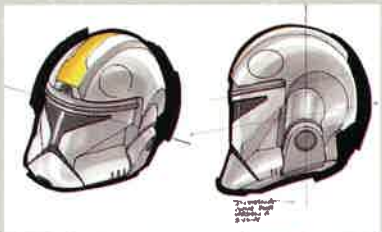
The clone pilot helmets seen in Episode III were based on AT-AT driver and TIE pilot helmets from the original Trilogy. The Squad Seven helmets more closely resemble those of the TIE pilots, and were created entirely digitally. They were mapped onto footage of actor Temuera Morrison's head.

---

units and even pilots began to rise to prominence. Be it a batch 'oddity' or simple fate, CT 5-series clone pilots had an exceptional record in flying *Jadthu*-class landing craft. LAAT/i gunships assigned to ARC-trooper units were the first to feature unique paintjobs, but soon individual veteran crews were decorating their favoured LAAT/i, giving rise to renowned craft such as Lucky Lekku and the Crumb Bomber. Such artistic expression was largely stamped out after Order 66 turned Republic clone troopers into Imperial stormtroopers.

Lucky Seven

The experience they gained in combat made Clone Flight Squad Seven, of the Fifth Fleet, one of the elite starfighter groups in the Open Circle Armada. They flew ARC-170 and V-wings on numerous engagements, their elite status making them the preferred back-up for Jedi pilots such as Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker. Their leader was Commander Davijaan, who took the call sign 'Odd Ball'. He and his men had regularly flown with Obi-Wan Kenobi, and he chose them to fly with him at the Battle of Coruscant. Only days later, Squad Seven were part of the force General Kenobi took with him to hunt for General Grievous on Utapau.



Squad Seven was one of the most experienced ARC-170 squadrons in the Open Circle Fleet.

REPUBLIC *ACCLAMATOR*-CLASS ASSAULT SHIP

MIGHTY ATTACK VESSEL

Although technically designated a 'trans-galactic transport ship', the massive Acclamator I and II were sufficiently heavily armed and armoured to be able to act as medium frigates. So well armed were they that an Acclamator group could render a planet lifeless in a bombardment dubbed 'Base Delta Zero'.

The *Acclamator*-class transports were designed and built by Rothana Heavy Engineering, a company wholly, if secretly, owned by Kuat Drive Yards - who would later build Star Destroyers for the Empire. The wedge-shaped design of the Acclamator ships was certainly a departure from the standard design of Republic ships of the pre-Clone Wars era, but it was more militarily sound. The dagger design, which had been a feature of Republic ships very many centuries before, during the Mandalorian Wars, allowed the ships to concentrate their forward firepower to the maximum effect while minimising their own target profile.

Powerful

Able to land on a planet, even a water world such as Mon Calamari, to disembark troops and battlefield equipment, each Acclamator I transport carried 16,000 clone troopers and support personnel into combat. They also shipped 320 speeder bikes, 80 LAAT gunships to carry infantry or vehicles, 48 AT-TEs and 36 SPHA walkers. The craft had a crew of some 700, including gunners who operated the four heavy launchers firing high-yield proton torpedoes from a magazine of 100, 24 point-defence laser cannon delivering 6 megatons per shot, and 12 quad turbolaser turrets each delivering 200 gigatons per shot. The hull was impregnated with ultra-dispersive neutronium to assist in dissipating the energy from enemy fire – even fusion rockets barely dented these ships.

The Eriadu Legacy

Already on the drawing boards of Rothana and Kuat, with some early testing taking place ten years before Geonosis, the Acclamator ships could easily have been fielded for the Separatists. However, this was blocked by the bloody assassination of several high-ranking Kuat staff at the Eriadu Conference, when the Neimoidians took control of the Trade Federation, despite the efforts of Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn and his Padawan Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Acclamator - class PROFILE

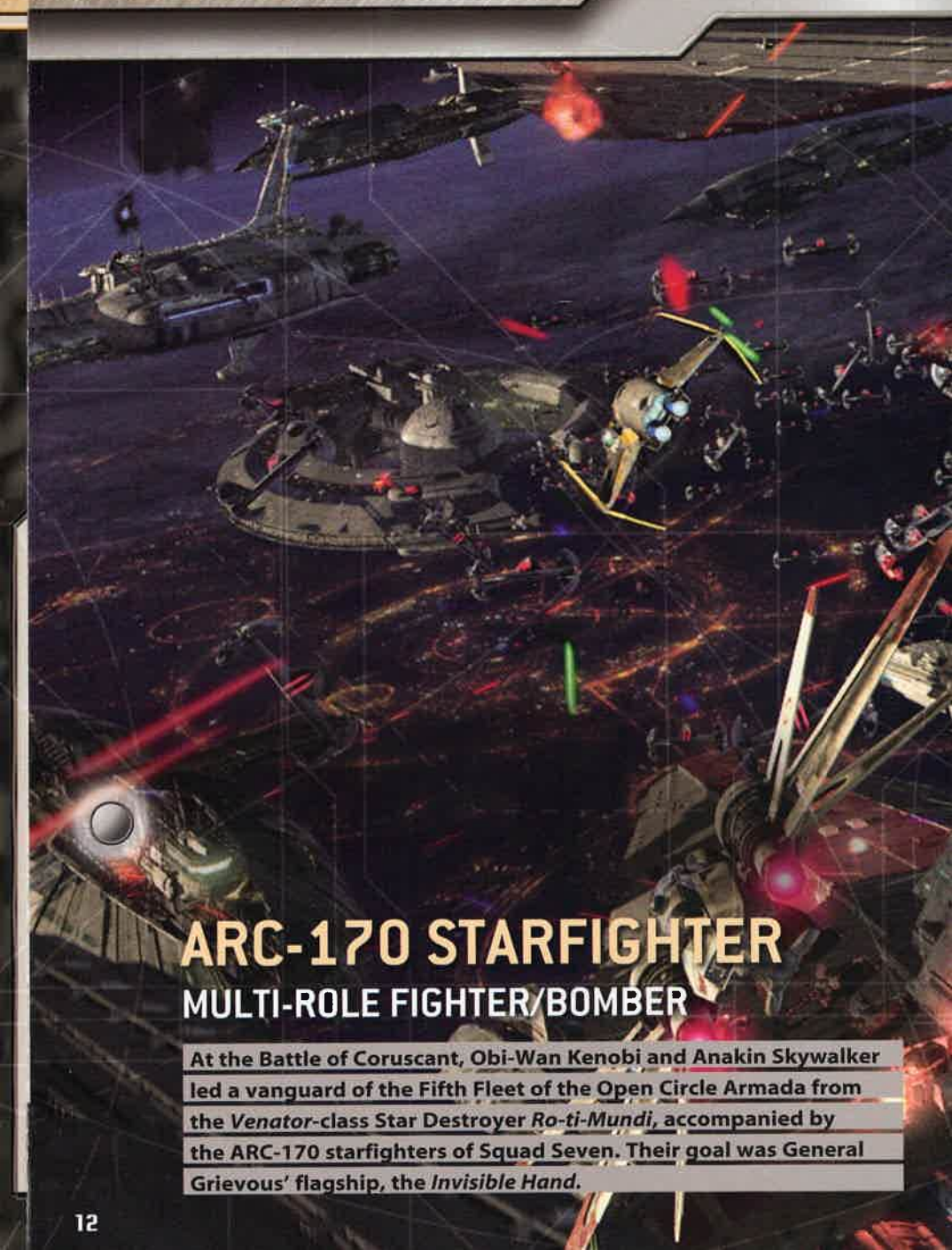
Type
Trans-galactic military transport ship

Manufacturer
Rothana Heavy Engineering

Weapons
12 quad turbolaser turrets, 24 laser cannon, 4 heavy torpedo launchers

Size
length 752m, width 460m, height 183m (flight)

Affiliation
Galactic Republic, Galactic Empire



ARC-170 STARFIGHTER

MULTI-ROLE FIGHTER/BOMBER

At the Battle of Coruscant, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker led a vanguard of the Fifth Fleet of the Open Circle Armada from the *Venator*-class Star Destroyer *Ro-ti-Mundi*, accompanied by the ARC-170 starfighters of Squad Seven. Their goal was General Grievous' flagship, the *Invisible Hand*.

ARC-170 STARFIGHTER

Type
Aggressive ReConnaissance starfighter

Class
Starfighter

Manufacturer
Incom Corp. & Subpro Corp.

Size
Length 14.5m, width 22.6m, height 4.78m

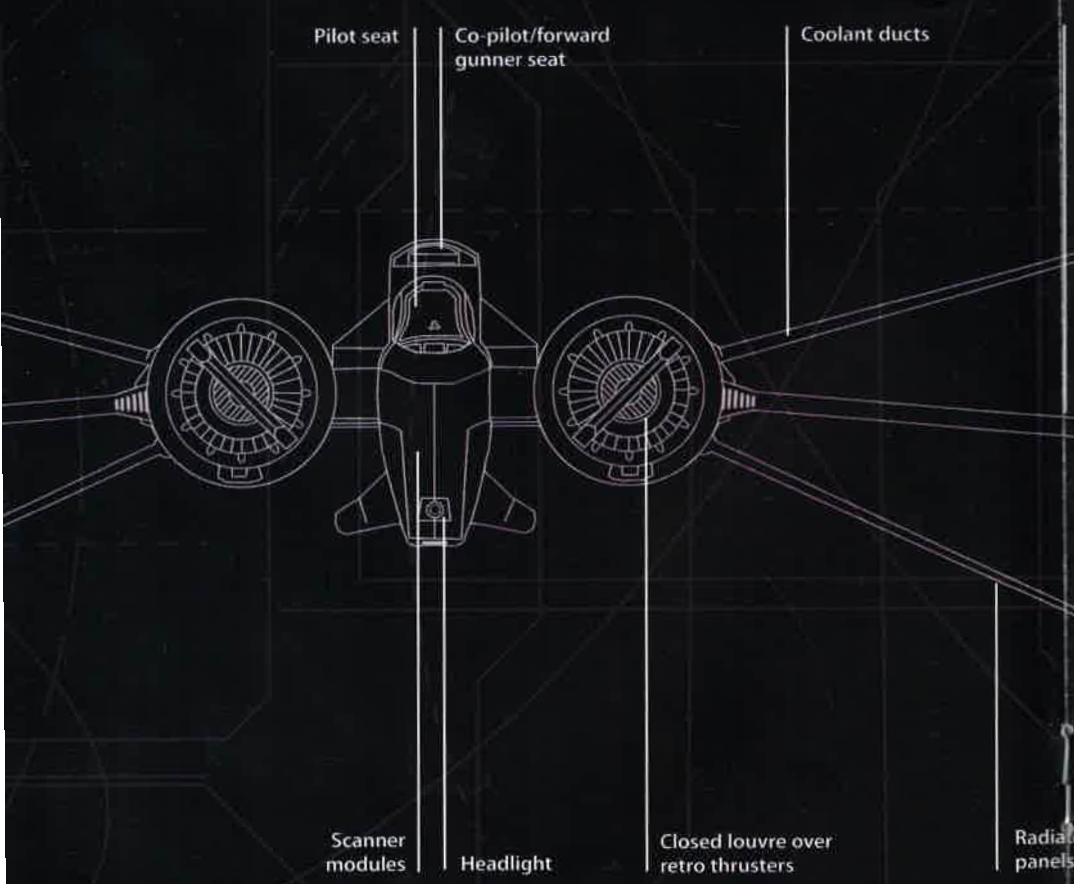
Speed
Maximum acceleration: 2,600G (linear, in open space), Maximum speed: 44,000kph (in atmosphere, with deflector shields).

Hyperdrive
Class 1.5, range 5,000 light years

Weapons
2x forward-mounted medium laser cannon, 2x rear-mounted laser cannon, 1x proton torpedo launcher (magazine of 6 missiles)

Crew
1x pilot, 1x co-pilot/ gunner, 1x tail gunner, R2-series astromech droid

Affiliation
Galactic Republic, Galactic Empire, Rebel Alliance


Pilot seat
Co-pilot/forward gunner seat
Coolant ducts
Scanner modules
Headlight
Closed louvre over retro thrusters
Radial panels

Radiator panels

Hyperdrive

Fuel tanks

Astro droid slot

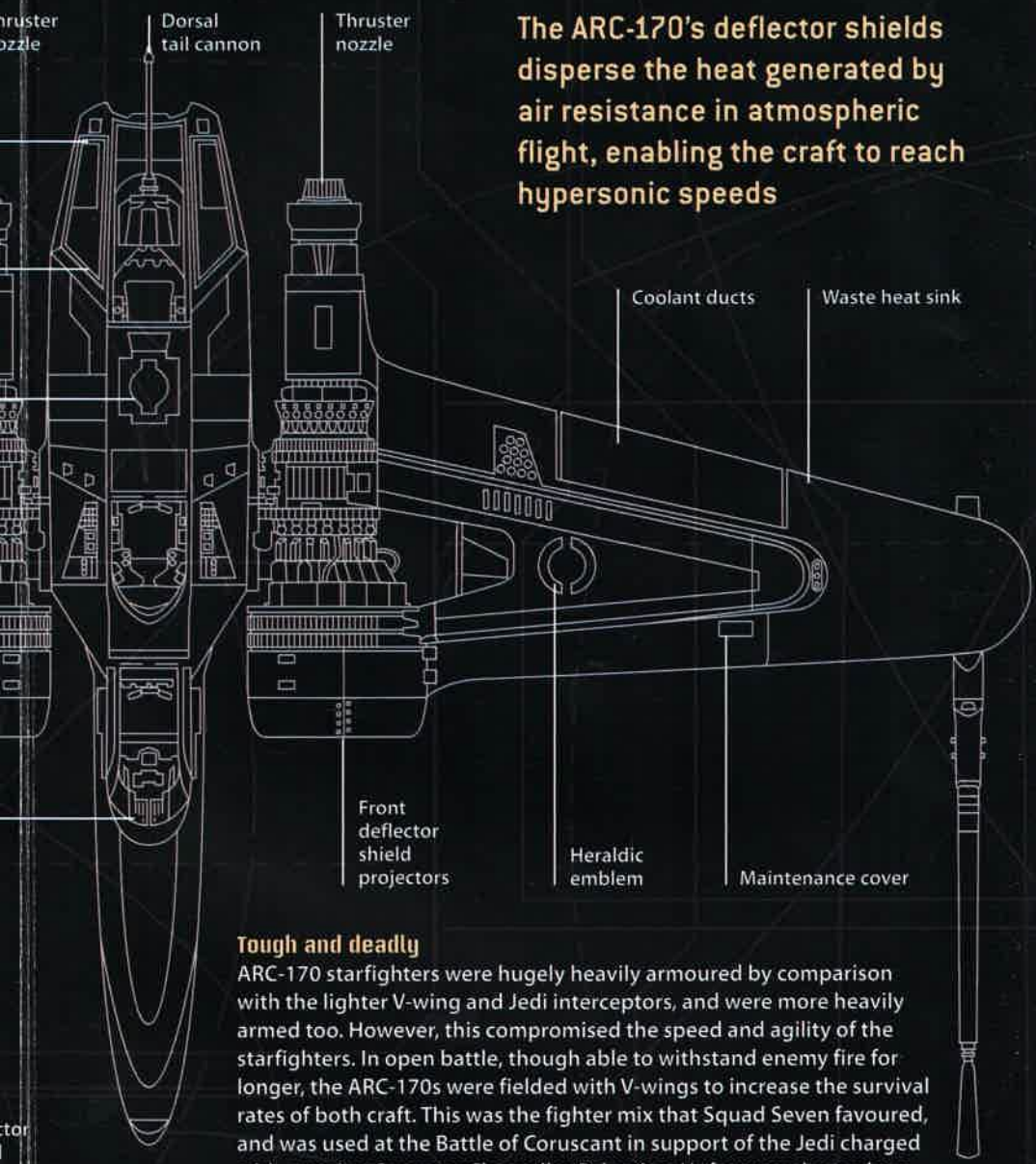
Cooling vents

Flight computer

Laser cannon

Muzzle can internally tilt the beam a few degrees off-axis for precise aim

Heraldic emblem



The ARC-170's deflector shields disperse the heat generated by air resistance in atmospheric flight, enabling the craft to reach hypersonic speeds

Tough and deadly

ARC-170 starfighters were hugely heavily armoured by comparison with the lighter V-wing and Jedi interceptors, and were more heavily armed too. However, this compromised the speed and agility of the starfighters. In open battle, though able to withstand enemy fire for longer, the ARC-170s were fielded with V-wings to increase the survival rates of both craft. This was the fighter mix that Squad Seven favoured, and was used at the Battle of Coruscant in support of the Jedi charged with rescuing Supreme Chancellor Palpatine. Unfortunately, not long after, the effectiveness of the ARC-170's powerful forward laser cannon was proven on Cato Neimoidia, when Clone Captain Jag shot down Jedi Master Plo Koon after Order 66 was issued by Emperor Palpatine.

THE 501ST LEGION

VADER'S PERSONAL STORMTROOPER FORCE

Darth Sidious was a master of the long game. The planning that went into his rise to power was meticulous and intricate. When Anakin Skywalker was woven into Sidious's plot, the Sith Lord knew that his apprentice would need a unique tool – his own legion of loyal troops.

A year after the Battle of Geonosis, Supreme Chancellor Palpatine – Darth Sidious's very public persona – secretly transferred a small team of Kaminoan technicians to a purpose-built facility on Coruscant. At the same time, a select group of clone troopers was also brought to the facility. There, under the command of Palpatine's own command staff, they were trained far beyond even the level of the already feared ARC troopers. This new legion was named the 501st. From that point, a core group of the 501st Legion was permanently assigned to serve with Anakin Skywalker.

A Secret Elite

Operating outside of the existing command structure, and often under other unit designations, members of the 501st fought in virtually all of the toughest engagements of the Clone Wars. With Skywalker, they fought at Christophis, Teth, the Battle of Coruscant and numerous other engagements. However, they also undertook special assignments for Palpatine, including obtaining a superlaser power crystal on Mygeeto without their Jedi General, Ki-Adi-Mundi, even being aware of the mission. Then, not long after the Battle of Coruscant, the disparate members of the 501st were secretly recalled to Coruscant. For the first time in a long time, the entire Legion was assembled in one place. All that was needed was their commander.

'Vader's Fist'

That changed after Order 66 was issued, and Jedi across the galaxy were murdered by their own troops. On Coruscant, Anakin Skywalker had given himself to the dark side, kneeling before his Emperor. Then he rose again as Darth Vader the Dark Lord of the Sith. Taking command of the 501st, he led them to the Jedi Temple wherein they killed almost every Jedi present. It was the first action of many, and soon the 501st Legion was justly named 'Vader's Fist'.

Clone to Storm

As clone troopers became stormtroopers, the 501st continued to support Lord Vader in his hunt for the surviving Jedi and, later, the Rebel Alliance. However, by the Battle of Endor, the 501st was a shadow of its former greatness.

PROFILE

501st Legion

Height

1.83 metres

Species

Human (clones)

Weapons

Blaster rifle

Affiliation

Emperor Palpatine, Darth Vader, Galactic Empire

CORUSCANT

THE BRIGHT CENTRE OF THE GALAXY

Nestling at the centre of the Core Worlds at hyperspace coordinates 0,0,0 was Coruscant. For millennia, it was the centre of political power in the galaxy, with its trillions of inhabitants inhabiting the urban sprawl that covered the whole planet.

It is thought that the surface of Coruscant last saw natural light some 95,000 years before the Battle of Yavin, long before the rise of the Galactic Republic 70,000 years later. For 25,000 years, Coruscant was the capital world of the Republic, with hyperspace transport routes stretching out from it and bringing the wealth of the galaxy to its peoples.

Hub Of The Galaxy

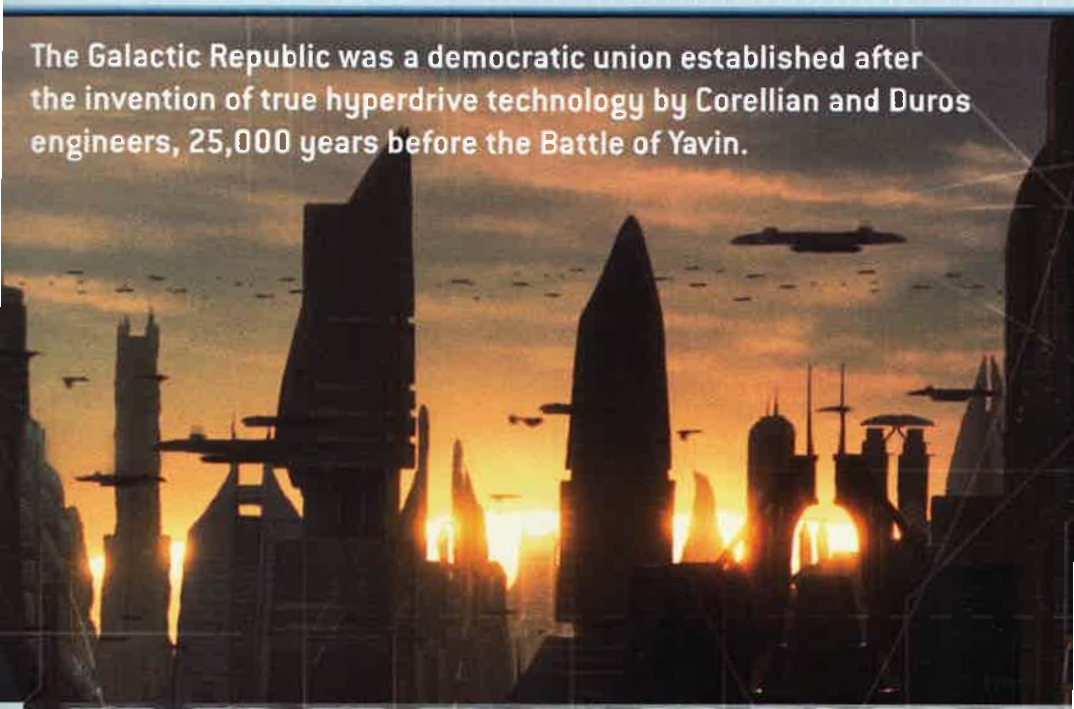
Though it was originally a human world, the Galactic Republic's capital quickly became home to virtually every species in the galaxy. Most were represented at the Galactic Senate, whose membership grew progressively. The vast city that covered almost all of the planet – save the Manarai Mountains and some small areas at the polar regions, was called Galactic City. The sprawling mass was divided into quadrants and then subdivided into numbered zones or sectors.

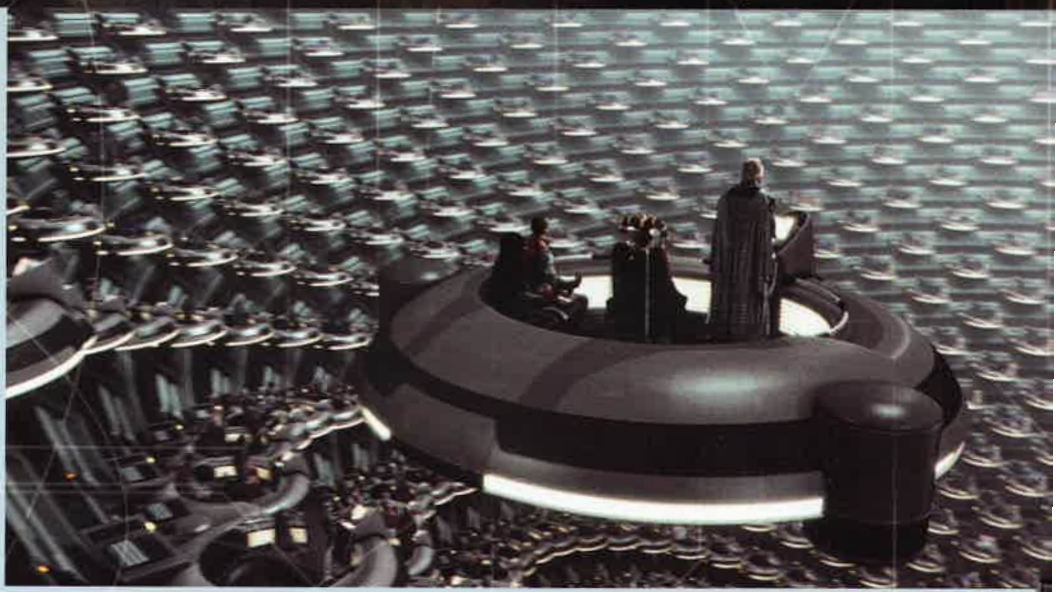
Within the zones, the city was organised by levels, megablocks, block and subblocks. However, the zones themselves were organised so that areas were set aside for particular purposes. As a result there were sectors for manufacturing, banking, residential and so on.

One of the most important zones housed the government, where the Senate Rotunda and Palace of the Republic were. The construction of the Senate Rotunda commenced some 2,973 years before the Battle of Yavin and despite the combined efforts of Empire and invader, the Rotunda was to survive as a beacon of hope and democracy. Even the Jedi Temple, founded when the Jedi Order came to Coruscant after the sacking of Ossus thousands of years before, did not survive so long.

However, despite the trappings of civilisation, nothing was ever as simple as it seemed.

The Galactic Republic was a democratic union established after the invention of true hyperdrive technology by Corellian and Duros engineers, 25,000 years before the Battle of Yavin.





The richer of Coruscant's citizenry lived in the heights, unaware of the cruel and dark world beneath their feet.

Megalopolis

The towering cityscape of Coruscant long ago swallowed up the last of the seas, the water being used to supply the population. The Western Sea of Coruscant is an artificial sea, sitting on top of occupied buildings, and was built for tourists who visit the many floating islands.

100,000 years before the Battle of Yavin, the huge ecumenopolis that was swallowing the surface of Coruscant had already risen to a point that its lower levels were being abandoned to crime and decay. For most of the population, the lowest levels of the city were the entertainment districts, lit by innumerable holographic advertising hoardings and other garish artificial light sources. However, by the time of the Clone Wars, there were deep, dark areas of Coruscant where the struggles of the galaxy were meaningless. The benighted people dwelling there were lost in a daily struggle just to survive. There were rumours of vicious, mutated creatures lurking among the foundations of the city sprawl, such as the legendary Cthons and even escaped droids that had gone dangerously mad.

Tarnished Jewel

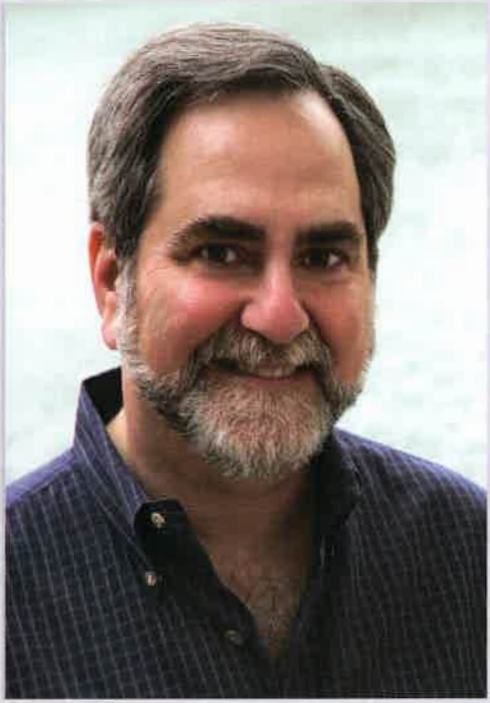
Even before the establishment of the Galactic Republic, Coruscant relied almost entirely on imports from other worlds to feed its people and supply its industries with raw materials. As time went on, booming industrial sectors such as The Works and the Factory District fell into disrepair and decay as off-world competitors out-produced and out-sold the more expensive Coruscant businesses.

Ultimately, Coruscant's riches, its very survival, came from the wealth brought in by its position as the political and cultural centre of the galaxy. Unfortunately, this was a double-edged sword. By becoming the centre of the galaxy, Coruscant became a prize to be fought for. Whoever ruled Coruscant ruled the galaxy, and the planet was regularly fought over – from the invasion of the Taungs 200,000 years before the Battle of Yavin, to the Rakatan Infinite Empire 30,000 years before, to the Separatists some two decades before and on.

STEVE SANSWEET

FAN RELATIONS

For many fans, the position held by Steve Sansweet at Lucasfilm is probably the greatest job in the world. Himself a long time *Star Wars* fan and collector, Sansweet turned his hobby into a career, writing books and feature articles on *Star Wars* and travelling the world as Lucasfilm's liaison with the fans.



Born and educated in Philadelphia, a journalism graduate of Temple University, Sansweet worked first for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* before becoming a staff reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*. He was transferred to Los Angeles (where he would eventually serve as the *Journal*'s Los Angeles bureau chief for nine years from March 1987). However, while still a reporter for the *Journal* in 1976, Steve Sansweet ran a number of interviews on antique toy collectors. An art gallery owner introduced Sansweet to what the owner considered would be the next big thing amongst collectors – Hollywood Toy Shop tin and plastic robots. Intrigued, Sansweet started his own small collection.

Director of Speciality Marketing

With the release of *Star Wars*, and the dawn of a new age of memorabilia collecting, Sansweet was thoroughly – and happily – consumed by the collecting bug. His single-storey Los Angeles home was quickly filled. So were its two-storey and three-storey successors, and subsequent storage lockers. His collection of *Star Wars* memorabilia had become the largest privately owned collection in the world. How big became clear when in 1996, he joined Lucasfilm as director of speciality

The 501st Legion

Steve Sansweet is a great admirer of the work of the real-world 501st Legion – a worldwide organisation of fans whose costumed charity events have raised a lot of funds for good causes, and who assist in the organisation of the official *Star Wars* fan events.

marketing. In 1998 he moved to a former chicken ranch in Northern California to be closer to Skywalker Ranch, and the move required two 48-foot trailers and a 24-foot truck. The collection was housed in a converted 450 square metre barn, and the ranch became known as Rancho Obi-Wan.

October 2009 will see the publication of Sansweet's 14th *Star Wars* book. His writing has been a guiding light for the continuing international *Star Wars* memorabilia collector community. As the executive in charge of fan relations, Steve Sansweet continues to be the enthusiastic and expert heart of *Star Wars* fandom.

THE OFFICIAL STAR WARS FAN CLUB
starwars.com

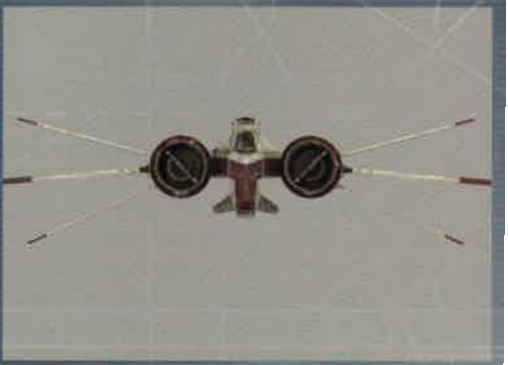
THE ARC-170

CREATING THE CLONE FIGHTER

REALISING THE CONCEPT

1 Ryan Church based the Fighter Concept that would eventually become the ARC-170 solidly on the X-wing from the original Trilogy.

2 Church said "The X-wing is all nose, so I moved the fuselage back to the middle point. I rounded off the corners and hung huge, clumsy guns on it."



5 A high-angle view. The S-foils are open for combat, providing additional cooling.

6 Front view of the digital model. The Heads-Up Display is similar to that on the X-wing.

In the script for *Revenge of the Sith*, what was to become the ARC-170 was simply known as a 'clone fighter'. The name was derived from the filename assigned to Ryan Church's concept picture – 'ART-170'.

3 An unpainted pre-production model. Director George Lucas asked for the extended tail section to be 'chopped off' after he saw this version.

4 A computer-generated 45 degree front right view showing the final design's drooping nose and foreshortened fuselage.

7 The top of the ARC-170, showing the logo of the Open Circle Armada on the wings.

8 Pilots were either entirely digital, or live footage of actor Temuera Morrison with a digital uniform.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 The Republic's *Acclamator*-class and *Venator*-class capital ships resemble which future craft?

2 Who coined the name 'Coruscant'?

3 Darth Vader leads which troops to attack the Jedi Temple?

ANSWERS:

1. The Republic's wedge-shaped capital ships in *Revenge of the Sith* are precursors to the Star Destroyers of the original Trilogy.

2. Timothy Zahn first named the capital world of the Republic Coruscant in his 1991 novel 'Heir to the Empire' George Lucas adopted the name formally for the Special Edition release of *Return of the Jedi*.

3. Darth Vader leads the 501st Legion, named in recognition of the real-world charity organisation, in their assault on the Jedi Temple.

M

Mimban

Planet
Expanded Universe

Mimban was the name given to the planet Circarpous V by the locals. A swampy, wet planet, it was the location of the Temple of Pomojema which held the Kaiburr crystal. This object could boost the Force powers of any who held it, so long as they remained on Mimban. Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader had their first-ever lightsaber battle in the temple, fighting for possession of the crystal. Vader was defeated thanks to 'luck' and the power of the Kaiburr crystal.

Moore, Sly

Character
Episodes II, III

This pale blue-skinned Umbaran female was Supreme Chancellor Palpatine's Senior Administrative Aide, and was one of the few who knew that Palpatine and Sith Lord Darth Sidious were one and the same. Palpatine arranged to have Moore kidnapped and imprisoned in a Sith tomb in the Cron Drift. 'Rescued' by Palpatine, Moore had survived the assaults of the vicious Sith ghosts only by sheer force of will. Palpatine twisted her gratitude, forming a close bond and revealing his true identity and plans. She became an ally, even impersonating Sidious to frighten others into submission. After Palpatine became Emperor, Moore used her training to convert captive Padawans to the dark side.

MSE-6 droid

Droid
Episodes IV, V, VI

These 'cute' little droids from the Chadra-Fan's Rebaxan Columni corporation were based on one of the rodent species' pet animals. However, the majority of the galaxy was not interested in buying a droid that reminded them of squeaking vermin. The entire MSE-6 range was sold to the Empire for use in its massive starships and installations, where these simple droids could be given routine duties including repairs, cleaning, and even guiding personnel through the labyrinth of the Death Star corridors. On military assignment , the droids were programmed to melt down if captured, making them jittery and paranoid.

Mynock

Creature
Episode V

Many brave spacers who would happily fly down the barrel of a superlaser were reduced to paranoid wrecks when faced with this silicone-based parasite. Entire spaceports could be quarantined for expensive pest-control operations on the discovery of just one mynock attached to a newly arrived starship. One of the few creatures able to exist in the vacuum of space, mynocks fed on ambient stellar, electrical and electromagnetic energy. Passing spacecraft represented an all-they-could-eat buffet. Unfortunately, tough and agile mynocks could cause catastrophic systems failures and hull breaches due to the way they ate, hence the fear and loathing they engendered in pilots and port authorities.

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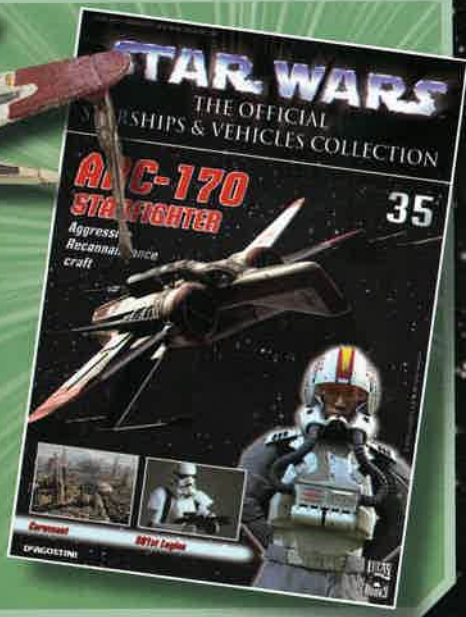

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